

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11732 101559Z

43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 OMB-01 /037 W

----- 072704

P 101247Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7642

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 11732

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: INDIANS PROFESS THEY ARE CALM AND COOL ABOUT BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 11632

1. POLCOUNSELOR CALLED ON NEA ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (BANGLADESH) AJMANI AUGUST 10 AND FOUND HIM RELAXED AND PROFESSIONG CALMNESS ABOUT BANGLADESH. AJMANI CONFIRMED BANGLADESH HICOMM REPORT (REFTEL) THAT INDIAN NOTE TO BDG JULY 30 HAD SUGGESTED NEW ROUND OF HIGH-LEVEL TALKS IN DELHI TO DISCUSS ONLY RARAKKA. BDG REPLY HAD INSISTED ON PRIOR INDIAN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS BDG PROPOSALS FOR RESOLUTION OF FARAKKA WATER ISSUE. AJMANI SAID GOI WAS STILL STUDYING THE BDG REPLY AND WOULD IN DUE SOURCE SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE TO DACCA.

2. AJMANI SAW ABSOLUTELY NO SIGNS OF ANY COMMUNAL TENSION IN BANGLADESH, NOR OF ANY DOMESTIC POLITICAL UNREST, ALTHOUGH HE HASTENED TO ADD (AS HE HAS DONE CONSISTENTLY IN THE PAST) THAT THIS IS A JUDGMENT ONE MUST MAKE DAY TO DAY ABOUT BANGLADESH. HIS QUESTIONS TO POLCOUNSELOR WERE ON WHETHER ZIA WOULD STEP DOWN AS CHIEF OF STATE IF HE WENT INTO POLITICS, WHETHER AWAMI LEAGUE WOULD REVIVE UNDER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NEW DE 11732 101559Z

ITS OLD NAME, AND WHETHER ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AS

SCHEDULED. HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON ARMY ATTITUDES, INSISTING US HAD BETTER SOURCES THAN GOI ON THIS SUBJECT. AJMANI SIGHED GENTLY AND SHOOK HIS HEAD SADLY IN NOTING THAT BDG HAD EXPELLED INDIAN PRESS AND MILITARY ATTACHES "FOR NO REASON". HE SAID HE WAS SORRY TO SEE THAT ZIA HAD BLASTED INDIAN POSITIONS ON FARAKKA AND BORDER INCIDENTS AT THE AIRPORT AUGUST 10 BEFORE LEAVING FOR COLOMBO (DACCA 4102), AND SAID THAT THE BDG REPRESENTATIVES HAD MADE FOOLS OF THEMSELVES AND PRACTICALLY BROUGHT THE WORK OF ESCAP TO A HALT THE LAST WEEK IN JULY BY THEIR HARPING ON THE FARAKKA ISSUE. HE HOPED THE BANGLADESHIS WOULD NOT RAISE THESE ISSUES AT THE NAC. IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD RECEIVE A "RESOUNDING REBUFF" FROM THE INDIANS IN RESPONSE AND WOULD GET LITTLE SYMPATHY FROM OTHERS AT THE NAC. ASKED WHETHER SUCH A BDG MOVE WOULD SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, AJMANI SAID ONLY THAT IT WOULD MAKE THINGS "MORE DIFFICULT."

3. ON BANGLADESH COMPLAINTS ABOUT BORDER INCIDENTS, AJMANI REITERATED HIS COMMENTS IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS THAT THE INDIANS AND THE BANGLADESHIS COULD NOT PATROL THE ENTIRE BORDER EFFECTIVELY AND THERE MIGHT WELL BE PERSONS WHO CROSSED THE BORDER EITHER WAY. POLCOUNSELOR ASKED WHETHER THE GOI AND BDG COULD NOT COOPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN HALTING TRANSBORDER MOVEMENTS, AND WHETHER SOME OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE NEAR INDIAN BORDER POSTS, AS THE BDG CLAIMED. AJMANI OBSERVED FRANKLY THAT, "YES, WE COULD INCREASE OUR PATROLLING AND OUR FORCES IN THE BORDER AREA, BUT WHY SHOULD WE? WHAT WOULD BE THE INCENTIVE FOR US TO DO SO? IT WOULD COST MORE MONEY AND BANGLADESH MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ALL THIS REQUIRES THAT THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE BE CREATED IN OUR RELATIONS." AJMANI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN PRESS CONTINUED TO BE HELD IN TIGHT CHECK ON THE SUBJECT OF BANGLADESH, THE GOI'S LEADERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE STATEMENTS BEING MADE IN BANGLADESH BY ITS LEADERS AND PRESS. AJMANI SUGGESTED THAT THE US OFFER THE OBSERVATION TO BANGLADESH OFFICIALS THAT THEIR HOSTILE STATEMENTS WERE NOT HELPING THE SITUATION AND WERE NO WAY OF BRINGING ABOUT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NEW DE 11732 101559Z

4. IN CONCLUSIONS, AJMANI SAID THAT INDIA WAS INCREASINGLY ABSORBED WITH ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PROBLEMS AND IF BANGLADESH WISHED TO CONTINUE ALONG ITS PRESENT POLICY PATH, INDIA WOULD SIMPLY IGNORE IT.

5. COMMENT: COMPARED TO LAST NOVEMBER WHEN AJMANI PROFESSED DEEP AGITATION OVER MOUNTING INDO-BANGLADESH TENSIONS AND FEARED FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF COMMUNAL TENSIONS WERE

UNLEASHED, ETC., HIS PRESENT MOOD IS ONE OF RESIGNATION,  
ALMOST INDIFFERENCE, AND CERTAINLY OF NO EFFORT TO CREATE  
FOR A FOREIGN VISITOR AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH SUDDEN CHANGES  
IN BANGLADESH OR COMMUNAL CONFLICT WERE BEING ANTICIPATED  
BY INDIA. NEVERTHELESS, IN SAYING THAT THE INDIANS COULD  
PATROL THE BORDER MORE EFFECTIVELY TO PREVENT CROSSINGS,  
BUT THEY HAD NO INCENTIVE TO DO SO, HE COMES AS CLOSE  
AS HE EVER HAS TO ACKNOWLEDGING SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND  
KNOWLEDGE OF BORDER CROSSERS. IF THE BDG SHAPES UP, AJMANI  
IMPLIES, SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO CONTROL THE FRONTIER.  
IF AJMANI CAN BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE--A TRICKY ASSUMPTION--  
THE INDIANS ARE KEEPING PRESSURE ON THE BDG BY ALLOWING  
BORDER INCIDENTS, BUT AREN'T ANTICIPATING DOING MUCH MORE  
AT THIS TIME.  
SAXBE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BORDER INCIDENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NEWDE11732  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760307-0855  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaaciaj.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 NEW DELHI 11632  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIANS PROFESS THEY ARE CALM AND COOL ABOUT BANGLADESH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, IN, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006